

LIBERTY

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BAKER ANNOUNCES FOR CONGRESS

By Ron Bain

David Baker, a Boulder-based hospital administration executive, has declared himself a Year 2000 candidate for U.S. Congress in the 2nd District, currently held by Democrat Mark Udall and previously by David Skaggs.

One of the first declared candidates for Congress in Colorado, Baker has been scoring points among Udall's liberal constituency by publicly questioning the freshman Congressman's silence on the Kosovo/Serbian War. Asking "Where is this Waldo Congressman?," Baker spoke before sparse crowds during the Memorial Day Weekend at the Boulder Creek Festival and previously had a letter published in the Daily Camera.

The following are details of positions on some of the issues as outlined in Baker's position paper.

Federal Budget: "The surplus is largely a myth. But the bigger issue is the fact that 47% of our incomes goes to government spending, which is confiscatory, immoral and inefficient."

Campaign Finance: "Full disclosure, no foreign money, no limits."

Crime: "No death penalty. Less federalization of crimes. Decriminalize victimless crimes, including drug usage for adults. Enforce reasonable laws against force, fraud and property assault."

Drugs: "Allow drug use for adults, while decriminalizing all victimless crimes. This would

- a) reduce crime by one-third,
- b) focus law enforcement on real crime issues,
- c) undo the racist application of current laws, and
- d) reduce corruption of police, border guards and other government officials now tempted by the huge profits generated by banning drugs."

Economy/Employment: "An unfettered free market has proven its worth and value to the human race. Government should privatize; corporate welfare should be ended; deregulate; end the minimum wage. Government should recognize no group rights, only individual rights."

Education: "Government schools create environments that lead to events such as Columbine where

- a) students cannot be expelled or even disciplined,
- b) kids are forced to attend schools they hate,
- c) counseling is expensive and ineffective, and
- d) children are drugged to maintain control."

Environment: "Government has proven to be the greatest polluter and somehow owns most American land. Private property is the keystone of responsibility and freedom; we should harness its magic to reduce pollution."

Foreign Policy: "America should avoid entangling alliances. The current war in Yugoslavia is undeclared, illegal, and perhaps a cover for a criminal president hoping to elude charges of cooperating with Chinese espionage."

Guns: "The Second Amendment guarantees all other Constitutional rights, as we are reminded by the gunless Kosovars today. Child protection should be ensured. Adults, not children, have full rights. Parents should be responsible for their guns. Legislators, by passing so many laws, contribute to the ineffectiveness of the valid laws already on the books."

Health: "Udall's position favoring universal health care suggests he is a socialist, in spite of this century's repudiation of that evil and failed experiment. Medical savings accounts would be a step toward injecting the free market into the excessive health care system, and restoring the doctor-patient relationship. FDA restrictions have killed many Americans by denying drugs they haven't gotten around to approving."

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Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

Once every four years we have a chance to really shake the world of politics. This next year will be no exception. Already three Libertarians have indicated their desire to run for president of the United States, either by forming an exploratory committee or by declaring outright. These are good candidates, ones we can be proud of.

In our own state we already have four Libertarians who say they will seek office in the year 2000. One thing we've not done in the past is start our campaigns early. Now we have at least two campaigns on the road, AND we have at least one person who will seek office in November of this year.

With all of this, you may be wondering what you can do to help. You may not want to run for office for any number of reasons. You may not even have time to help with the campaigns. Here are three things you can do to affect the political landscape of the next year.

First, if you are not registered as a Libertarian, please do so. All it takes is a simple change of affiliation on a voter registration card which we will be happy to send you. We discovered, while changing over our computer system, over half of our dues paying members are not registered as Libertarians. If each one of you registered this summer, our registrations would jump almost 20%. Your registration is one effective way you can tell the elected officials how you want them to vote.

Second, many of you receiving this newsletter are not dues paying members of the party. Colorado is 13th in the nation for the number of Libertarian dues paying members. Our delegates to the national convention are determined, in part, by the number of dues paying members we have at the end of this year. If everyone who is now a registered voter also became a dues paying member, Colorado would be second in the nation. The presidential candidates would spend time in our state and we would have a strong voice in deciding who will be the Libertarian candidate for president in the year 2000.

There is one additional advantage of becoming a dues paying member. Colorado will receive one dollar a month per member. If everyone who receives this newsletter becomes a dues payer, our state budget would almost triple. We would be able to give our candidates outstanding support; we would be able to run the TV ads we have ready to go; we would have the resources to fight bad legislation.

Third, if you are already a registered, dues paying member, consider giving a gift membership to someone you know. Michele Bethke, our former State Chair, started out on a gift membership in 1991. You never know what might happen! Maybe your friend will end up running for president someday!

It's true that not all of us can run as a candidate, or serve as a board officer, or work as an activist. But there are things all of us can do affect the political landscape this year. Together, we can make a difference!

In Liberty,
BetteRose Smith

P. S.: I had encouraged people to pledge at the state level but forgot to say how to do it. If you wish to donate to the state party or pledge monthly, you can do so by calling David Bryant at 303.744.6577. Remember, a pledge of as little as \$5 per month can make a big difference!

LIBERTY

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Social Security: "The surplus is, again, largely illusory, and the Social Security system is a flawed Ponzi scheme. Introduce free market alternatives, while keeping our promise to citizens, but disengage from a program sure to haunt us for decades to come."

Taxes: "Taxes are uniquely repressive, and now consume 47% of our incomes. Reducing government to its basic constitutional functions should allow a huge reduction (if not the elimination) of our income taxes."

Welfare/Poverty: "Generally, such programs have served to hurt those they intend to help, while imposing an immoral redistribution of income on productive citizens. Eliminate all federal poverty programs and install a negative income tax, which would inspire private parties to assist the needy."

Letters to the Editor

The editorial policy of "Colorado Liberty" is to provide a Libertarian perspective on issues of current interest. Many such issues are controversial, even among Libertarians. The editors of the "Liberty" invite commentary from all sides of such issues. We aim to make the "Liberty" an informative and objective advocate for freedom.

Dear Editor:

My thanks and congratulations to Ari Armstrong who was a guest on my May 17 talk show program. The radio station, KNUS, let me have two hours to discuss the similarities between the Libertarian Party and the American Constitution Party, as well as to reflect on agreements and disagreements with the two major parties.

Ari was extraordinary in representing the Libertarian position clearly and intelligently.

Many times new or radical ideas can be presented in ways which offend. Ari is a natural at addressing the underlying problem directly and sensitively and then applying freedom ideals to the issue. He made his stance known in a very positive way and never once compromised his principles.

Please give two pats on the back, three cheers and a round of applause for your spokesman's excellent work.

Very truly yours,
Penn R. Pfiffner, State Representative

Gun Control is Not the Answer

by Bill Masters

I can understand the call for gun control after the atrocity at Columbine High School. A careful analysis of the problem of violent crime, the history of gun control, and this incident is required to make proper decisions to help prevent such criminal acts in the future.

Firearm ownership is a right guaranteed by the 2nd amendment to the United States Constitution. That right is assured to an even higher degree by Article 2, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution, which states that no person's right to keep and bear arms to defend his "home, person and property" will be even "called into question".

The 2nd amendment was ignored almost immediately after it was adopted. Gun control laws were passed forbidding the sale of firearms to Native Americans. These laws were often passed when the government reacted to a hysterical public demanding action after reading gruesome newspaper accounts of atrocities allegedly committed by rogue bands of Indians.

Native tribes were forced to trade with smugglers and criminals who demanded outrageous prices for old and barely functioning firearms. Tribe members took to raiding white settlements in efforts to obtain firearms to protect themselves from a government and a white citizenry bent on genocide.

With Native Americans unarmed and defenseless, the U.S. government was quick to ignore its treaties with the tribes when the public demanded more land. Eventually an entire race of people was effectively wiped out. Try and wrestle a rifle out of a Navajo's hands today and he will probably shove the stock down your throat and then give you a bag to carry your teeth around in.

After the Civil War the white people in the South (and in many cases the North) passed several different gun control laws designed to keep firearms out of the hands of now free African-Americans. Klan-type raids on African-American communities were frequent, for the brave white knights of the order just could not tolerate the thought of anyone resisting a lynching. Today African-Americans can call the police, like the NYPD, for help when threatened.

Germany was a highly civilized country a short 60 years ago. Art, culture and the rule of law were important to the German people. In such a peaceful

civilized country, why would any citizen need a firearm? Only the police needed handguns, and except for a few hunting rifles locked up in sporting clubs (Gentiles only, please), no one was armed. No one needs a firearm, the friendly guys in the brown shirts said. We are here to protect you.

Six million children, women and men marched to their deaths -- defenselessly. Couldn't happen here. Not in a civilized country like ours. However I know more than one Jewish guy who says "Never Again" more like a battle cry than in remembrance of the departed.

Government laws and programs seldom work the way we want them to. One need not look farther than the \$30 billion-a-year war on drugs to determine how effective a war on firearms will be. The drug war has brought us a government that arrests a million people each year, gang type mass killings, and drugs that are readily available in every town, city and school. The drug war makes standing in line at the post office look like the model of government efficiency. I don't think this country can stand another prohibition program.

Government policies at times work against reasonable efforts to control firearms. In the mid 1970s the federal government was trying to implement different gun control measures in response to a series of mass murders by lone gunmen. In Austin, Texas, Charles Whitman had killed 18 and wounded 30 with a hunting rifle. Jimmy Essex had killed 10 and wounded 17 in New Orleans. At the same time, Mr. Carlos Garcia received a loan from the Federal Government's Small Business Administration, to start a retail firearm business which he quickly expanded into a gun manufacturing operation. Mr. Garcia's small business developed and started mass producing the TEC-9, a high-capacity 9mm assault style semi-automatic pistol. One of the 100,000 TEC-9s made by Mr. Garcia's company ended up in the hands of the perpetrators of the Littleton shooting. TEC-9s are also on the top 10 list of the ATF's (Federal Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms department) most often investigated firearm.

England has had the strongest gun control laws in the west for years. Still the firearm related atrocities have been horrific.

On March 13th, 1996, Thomas Hamilton walked into his local school in the village of Dunblane, Scotland. Surprisingly enough, given Great Britain's gun control laws, he carried four handguns. Hamilton walked down the hallways until he found the smallest children, 5 and 6 years old, playing nursery games in the gym. He then shot and killed 16 of the children and their teacher before killing himself. This was the worst shooting in Great Britain

since 1987, when a 27 year old man shot and killed 16 people and himself in Hungerford, England.

News reports lead us to believe that the current string of murders is a modern phenomenon. Few records exist, but I have found some reports of mass murders which happened long ago. Heldne Jegardo in Brittany, France poisoned 23 people in the early 1800's. Van der Linden in Holland poisoned over 50 people in 1852. In 1862 Martin du Mollard of Paris stabbed 10 people to death. On September 6, 1949, Howard Unruh shot and killed 13 people in New Jersey with a 9mm handgun. And in 1958 Charles Storkweather killed 11 people with a pistol in two days.

Of course large numbers of people can be murdered by using some means other than firearms. The Oklahoma City bombers used common fertilizer to build the bomb that killed 168. Prior to that terrible day, the largest mass murder in US history was the one carried out in New York City by Julio Gonzalez who, using less than a dollar's worth of gasoline, set fire to the Happy Land Social Club in 1992, killing 87 people.

All this leads me to conclude that tyrannical governments want an unarmed population; that gun control doesn't work; that many government programs work against one another; and that mass murderers are at least clever enough to use poison, make explosives from common materials, set fires or use any other available means to commit their evil deeds.

Politicians, responding to the public's frustrated cries, will rush to institute government programs that will only give us a cruelly false sense of security. New feel good laws will be passed that will further restrict people's rights, cost more taxpayer money and expand the role of government with regulations that would not have prevented the Littleton disaster nor have any real effect on the prevention of future atrocities.

As an option, we in the law enforcement community can rationally, (through the study of the criminology and victimology of these incidents), determine what if anything can be done to minimize the risk to the children and then of course release that information to the public so they can make informed decisions about the safety of their families.

Being the father and step father to four great kids, as well as being a Libertarian and the elected Sheriff of San Miguel county, I can tell you that this event affected me deeply. I want the world to be safer for the kids and therefore I want our society to address the root causes of crime. I don't want empty promises or politically self-serving speeches from

the President about "Why don't (children) use words instead of weapons" while our bombs are falling on villages in a faraway land. I don't want more laws added to the 33,000 robotic-type laws that currently vainly attempt to control human conduct in Colorado. I do want the ability to choose where my children are going to be and which school they should attend. I want parents to have the time to be responsible for their kids rather than working 5 months a year just to pay taxes.

I want a society that doesn't let kids grow up in the hopelessness and despair of a welfare state only to enter an economy where the government has crushed opportunity. I want Americans to be held accountable for their actions and to proudly accept personal responsibility for the well being of themselves and their families. Until we address some of these root causes of crime our society will continue to breed criminals and no permanent solution to crime will be found.

Bill Masters is the Sheriff of San Miguel County (Telluride). If you live in the vicinity and you'd like to help him organize the Libertarian Party out that way please call him at 970-728-7948.

A View from the Other Side

With the eyes of the world fastened on Kosovo, the following e-mail message is especially poignant. Ed.

Date: Tue, 20 Apr 1999 15:28:42 -0300
From: Marija Marjanovic
Subject: my side of the story

Hello everyone! I am student from Architectural Faculty, University Belgrade, Yugoslavia. I spent great time in Porto Alegre by the end of the year 1997.

Some terrible things are happening to me and my people (Serbs) and I wanted to tell you my side of the story.

My people is in a very bad position: on one side, there is our government that absolutely does not care about anything except about how to save their own positions. We don't support this government. Belgrade (the capital) did not vote for them. Not to mention that we are under media blockade for very,

very long time, and our elections were never fair. In one word - this government WAS NOT OUR CHOICE.

On the other side there is USA (NATO forces), which is determined to ruin everything that stands on its way. Do you really believe that they are concerned about human rights and things like that? The real reason for their actions are: strategic positions (spreading to the eastern part of Europe, and making "conflict areas" in the middle of Europe in order to remain stronger than European Community) as well as economy reasons (spreading the market and selling the old weapons).

Did you know that they are bombing us with radioactive materials which are secondary products of their nuclear industry? Did you know, that during the war in Bosnia (country next to Yugoslavia), USA bombarded this territory and that women from this areas have defective babies born today?

Do you still believe that they are fighting for human rights?

We are in terrible position. If they are fighting only against our government why are they attacking civilians?

Do we really need this aggression? Don't they have any other way to persuade our president to negotiate? Do we, civilians, have to suffer because of wrong government on one side and aggressive ways of USA to realize their strategic and economic goals on the other?

We only want to live our lives normally. To work, have fun, have families, have healthy children. We are normal people that is very tired of everything that is going on here in the last ten years. Please, help us, by spreading our side of the story all over the world.

Tell this to your friends in Brazil and in the other countries. Anything that you do can be helpful. Help us only by thinking. Remember, this can happen to any poor nation. World should not be a jungle.

Thank You for Your time.
Truly,
Marija Marjanovic

Looking for Leaders

by Tom Goonan

The Libertarian Party of Colorado has identified two major gaps in our organization: namely, Adams County and Englewood/Littleton. We would like to establish local affiliates in these two areas soon.

We are looking for a volunteer who is willing to make some phone calls (using lists that we will provide), to get five people together for an organizational meeting. Our lucky volunteer will not have to work alone. We will help -- first with contact lists, and later with an organizing manual and speakers for the first few meetings.

If you live in either of these areas and have been wondering what you can do to advance the cause of liberty, we want to hear from you. Call Tom Goonan at (303)202-9069, or send e-mail to tgoonan@sprint-mail.com

"The good guys with guns should certainly outnumber the bad guys with guns, that's for sure," Bain told the KWAB interviewer.

Bain was also part of a call-in program on KWAB featuring a Log Cabin Republican from Georgia. Bain called the show and told the gay GOP member that he should join the Libertarian Party because "the Republican Party will never stop persecuting gays or drug users in a thousand years."

As his first administrative act, Bain coordinated the LPBC booth at the recent Boulder Creek Festival, a three-day celebration of spring held May 29-31. Visitors to the booth took the World's Smallest Political Quiz and saw their results posted on a large Nolan Chart. Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the booth: Paul Peters; Shefali O'Hara; David Baker; Judd Ptak; Doug Newman; Howard Lambert; Jon Ford; Kevin Wilkerson; Greg Woods; Ken Kirkmeyer; and Jerry Van Sickle.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNITY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

by Tom Goonan

The LCJC held its monthly meeting on June 3, the first Thursday, at Tom Goonan's home in Applewood. The agenda included development of an exploratory committee to look into running at least one candidate for the Jefferson County school board in November. Ken Sipsey reported that only 50 signatures are required to petition onto the ballot. Petitioning can start in July.

The group also agreed to sponsor some kind of public event in October, probably related to the school board candidacy. It will be held in Golden, most likely at the Colorado School of Mines.

Finally, the group agreed to hold a picnic sometime this summer, and to invite as many potential new members as possible. Sara Wilson has agreed to host the picnic at her very attractive foothills venue.

The LCJC is actively monitoring some very interesting local issues in Jefferson County. Among these are the massive land purchases by the Open Space Commission, which got a green light to buy land with borrowed money at the last election. The issue of whether to run C-470 through Golden is hot, as is a proposal to relocate Highway 93 to the west of its current location. This pits one large, lonely landowner against all the neighbors who have recently built near the current route, another example of risk-shifting via political action. Golden also has a bevy of disaffected citizens who created a

Community News Corner

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF BOULDER CO.

Boulder businessman and longtime Libertarian activist Ron Bain was elected acting chairman of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County on May 13th, following the sudden resignation of Chairman Ken Kirkmeyer of Longmont, who cited an overwhelming workload as his reason. The regular election of officers for the LPBC will be held in July. If you're a member of the Boulder Party, be sure to cast your vote.

The emergency election of Acting Chairman Bain took place during the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the LPBC at Cheng's Chinese Garden Restaurant in Louisville.

Bain's first act as chair was to schedule an interview with Boulder radio station KWAB 1490 AM. He spoke about gun rights and how the post-Columbine gun control advocates are pushing for changes to constitutionally protected rights without changing the Constitution. He also addressed the right of self-defense and the need for community protection.



Ron Bain

"shadow council" to protest tax subsidies for developers. We intend to get more involved in this one.

Last month I wrote about the issues in Lakewood. Once again it's developers versus the general public, with local government doing the heavy lifting for its masters, the developers.

Here's an issue that all local affiliates should monitor: The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is blackmailing local governments to accept growth limits originating in Washington. They are tying allotments of growth limits to participation in periodic transportation improvement plans. These plans allocate federal funds among local entities. It's the trickle-down theory of regulation.

Many city council races in Jefferson County will be decided in November. We need to identify candidates for these non-partisan positions. If you live in Jefferson County and would like to get involved in these interesting local races, or if you know someone who's interested, please contact Tom Goonan, Chair, LCJC, at (303) 202-9069. Or send e-mail to tgoonan@sprintmail.com. Even if you don't want to run, we need people to be our eyes and ears at local government meetings. And we still need more help for our school board candidate.

BROOMFIELD COMMUNITY NEWS

Thanks to the hard work of one Wright Morgan, we now have a new affiliate. The Broomfield affiliate began its life in June of this year. A celebration and an awarding of the certificate of affiliation will take place on June 26th at the Eisenhower Public Library in Broomfield at 10:00am.

The newly formed affiliate has some big plans for the city and (soon to be) county of Broomfield, including an outreach program designed to contact the unaffiliated voters in the city.

"I am so glad we have yet another affiliate starting up," said State Chair BetteRose Smith. "Politics has always been local. The more grassroots we have, the stronger the party will be at all levels. As affiliates take on a more active role in local politics and elections, the Libertarian Party of Colorado can more effectively play its role of providing support to affiliates and addressing statewide issues. Welcome to our newest affiliate."

Libertarian Jurors

by Tom Goonan

There is a belief among Libertarians, well-founded or not, that the state and its court officers will go out of their way to exclude Libertarians from juries. There is some anecdotal evidence that registered Libertarians do indeed get summoned for jury duty, but that is not the whole issue. We want to know if they actually serve. If not, we would like to determine where in the process they are excluded; perhaps peremptorily, or through *voir dire*.

The reason for this research is to bring the injustice of discriminatory jury selection to the public's attention, if such discrimination really exists. If we can determine that Libertarians do NOT serve on juries, or serve far less frequently than others, we will have fodder for press releases which will generate tangential publicity for, and discussion of, our FIJA positions. Perhaps, if discrimination can be proved, there could be legal grounds for a civil rights suit.

Before we get too far afield, we'd like to hear about our readers' jury duty experiences. Please get back to us with answers to the following questions:

1. Have you been called to appear for jury service? How were you registered to vote when you were called?
2. Have you ever served on a jury after *voir dire*? What type of case was it, and what level of court was it?
3. Have you ever been dismissed from a jury? Why?
4. How did your Libertarian views or affiliations work for/against you?

We could assume, incorrectly, that a dearth of responses signifies a great many "no" answers to Question 1. We do not want to make any such assumption, so please reply whether you have ever been called or not. If we can prove that our thesis is wrong without any further effort, that in itself will be a valuable result.

Responses will be compiled by Tom Goonan, and the results will be published in a future issue of The Liberty.

Please send your snail mail responses to Tom Goonan, P.O. Box 150264, Lakewood, CO 80215, or send e-mail to tgoonan@sprintmail.com. Thanks for your help!

Paladin Press Suit is Settled

On May 21, the insurance company representing Paladin Press decided to settle the constitutionally significant 'Hit Man' lawsuit out of court with a payment of more than \$1 million.

Previously, the insurance company had committed itself to pay for Paladin's defense throughout the trial and any subsequent appeals; apparently, the strategy now is to settle and avoid the cost of litigation.

Paladin Press did not control the insurance company's decision and, dependent as the publisher was upon the insurance carrier's financial support, had no voice in the settlement.

"We are extremely disappointed with this development. Paladin and its attorneys were both fully prepared and anxious to be heard at trial. The settlement leaves unsettled both the specific issues surrounding this case -- should 'Hit Man' be blamed for the crimes of James Perry and Lawrence Horn? -- and the larger general issue of whether a publisher should be held liable for the crimes of a reader of its books," stated a Paladin Press news release.

"Effective immediately, we are withdrawing 'Hit Man' from our list of publications. The author requested that we do so some 18 months ago, but we could not at that time -- we felt that to cease publication while in litigation might be misconstrued at trial."

Will this precedent stop with Paladin? Are other companies that publish and sell books containing information on crime, criminal techniques, military tactics, firearms, and a host of other topics in danger of copycat lawsuits, holding them responsible for the actions of their customers? Will such companies be forced to excise any controversial material from their publications to avoid costly lawsuits?

It is impossible to say how much damage this lawsuit has done to the First Amendment and the once-vaunted "free marketplace of ideas" it has encouraged and protected from censors of all persuasions for two centuries. How will this settlement affect Paladin's list of books and videos?

"We will now be forced to take a hard look at the rest of our offerings and consider which books and videos could be potential liabilities and thus a threat to the existence of our company," the press release continued. "Thank you to everyone -- customers,

friends, and strangers -- who donated money to the legal defense fund, every penny of which went to help pay the legal fees of our dedicated, hard-working team of attorneys. We will continue to do our best to defend the First Amendment and hold the line against economic censorship."

Book Review

Reviewed by Bill Fargo

"Identity Theft: The Cybercrime of the Millennium"
By John Q. Newman
97 pages, \$12.00, Loompanics Unlimited

The newest arrival from John Q. Newman takes a slightly different tack from his usual books telling readers how to disappear, create a new identity, or acquire alternative identification. "Identity Theft" will teach you how criminals can steal your identity, how you can prevent them from stealing your identity, and how you can repair your credit and reputation after they strike.

One of the most interesting discoveries you will make in this book is the fact that the government and credit bureaus are usually accomplices in the theft of identities, albeit unwittingly. Newman traces the route that identity thieves take in great detail, so the reader can understand what actions to take, or avoid, to protect his or her identity.

In the appendices, Newman gives contact information for government agencies that can help you safeguard your identity, explains how a Social Security Number is coded, and gives an eleven-step "Identity Theft Victim Checklist." He then provides a series of sample letters illustrating how to correspond with credit bureaus, creditors, check-clearing agencies, court clerks, motor vehicle departments, passport offices, and law enforcement agencies. There is even a reproduction of an "Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number" for those who need a number to file with the IRS, but who are not legally entitled to one. It seems that anyone can send money to the IRS, whether or not they're legally in this country.

Anyone who has a Social Security Number, bank account, credit cards, and a healthy credit rating is quite vulnerable to identity theft and would be an attractive victim. Everyone in that situation would benefit from reading this book, if only to learn just how vulnerable they are. If you don't fall into that category, the book will serve as an interesting look into the mind of the identity thief, the cybercriminal of the millennium.

A Libertarian View of Abortion

by Jon Geltemeyer

Libertarians recognize that abortion is an emotionally charged and divisive issue. The despicable older parties use this issue to exploit the emotions of voters, backing legislation and concepts that will do nothing but polarize society. Libertarians condemn those who wish to make abortion an entitlement and those who knowingly deceive American citizens by advocating more restrictive laws that will only exasperate our abortion woes.

Libertarians empathize with all those who hold convictions as to exactly when life begins. Libertarians also realize that this is one question on which we cannot reach consensus. The older parties concentrate on this question because they know they have captive blocks of voters who keep hoping their elected representatives will somehow find The Answer. That will never happen.

The Libertarian Party wants the government out of all aspects of the human reproductive process. "When life begins" and the "morality of abortion" are two questions the government cannot decide.

The Libertarian stance effectively means that abortion remains legal. This is obvious comfort for those who believe life begins sometime after conception. But what of those who believe that life begins at conception? The Libertarian Platform addresses their concerns as well.

Whether you believe abortion is right or wrong is a personal moral decision or, if you will, a matter of hearts and minds. If people believe there is nothing wrong with abortion then no law, not even a constitutional amendment, will change their minds, or their actions.

If you believe that only laws and regulations mold our society then I'm afraid the Libertarian Party has nothing to say to you. Abortion did not start with Roe v. Wade. Roe v. Wade merely reflected a change in societal values. Written laws will never eliminate abortion. Laws will not reduce the number of abortions if people's hearts and minds oppose those laws. But adoption of Libertarian ideals will reduce abortions, voluntarily, to a far greater extent than the law ever can, or will.

The Libertarian Party Platform says we should:

- Eliminate taxpayer supported abortions.

- Reduce the economic demand for abortion by lowering and/or eliminating taxes.

- Remove government from the welfare arena and let private charities do the job. That will emphasize the element of personal responsibility, leading to a further reduction in the number of abortions.

- Reduce federal interference with the schools. That will give parents more freedom to instill their own values in their children, and may also lead to a decrease in abortions.

- End all prosecutions for "victimless crime." This will allow us to hold violent criminals like rapists and child molesters in prison for a long time, leading to a reduction in the number of abortions resulting from these crimes.

- Promote new medical research by reducing taxes and regulations.

Breakthroughs in medicine could very well end abortion as we know it. We already have the technology to freeze an embryo and re-introduce it into the womb at a later date. Such technology may eventually allow unwanted pregnancies to be treated like adoption -- the undeveloped fetus would be given to a woman who wants to be a mother. Ill-timed pregnancies could be deferred without destroying the fetus.

As abortions become less frequent they will become less acceptable. People will look for ways to avoid abortions and the situations that lead to them.

A Libertarian government will not invade the most private aspects of a person's life. At the same time Libertarian ideals provide a means to reduce and possibly eliminate the practice of abortion. And all this can be accomplished without divisiveness, force, or intrusive new laws.

Calendar

July, 1999

• 7/1 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm social time, 7:00 pm business meeting-, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, call Tom Goonan, (303) 202-9069 (h), (303) 236-8747, ext. 228 (w).

• 7/3 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 7/6 - Tue - Larimer County Activist breakfast - First Tuesday - 7am - Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Ft. Collins. Call Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.

• 7/6 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179

• 7/8 - Thurs - Annual Meeting of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County - 7 p.m. - At the home of Kevin Wilkerson, 458 Pine Tree Lane, Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 7/10 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 7/12 - Mon - Board of Directors - Second Monday (next 3 months)- 7:00pm - Party Office, 720 E18th Ave #309, Denver, Co. All members welcome. Public comment 6:45pm and 9:00pm.

• 7/13 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 7/17 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 7/19 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.

• 7/20 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 7/23 - Friday- Annual Picnic - 6:00 pm - Evergreen - All are invited. Contact: Tom Goonan, (303) 202-9069 (h), (303) 236-8747, ext. 228 (w).

• 7/24 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 7/27 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

August, 1999

• 8/3 - Tue - Larimer County Activist breakfast - First Tuesday - 7am - Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S. College Ave., Ft. Collins. Call Lee Smith (970) 635-0395.

• 8/3 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 8/5 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm social time, 7:00 pm business meeting-, Tom Goonan's home: 12895 W. 16th Drive, Golden, CO 80401, call Tom Goonan, (303) 202-9069 (h), (303) 236-8747, ext. 228 (w).

• 8/7 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 8/9 - Mon - Board of Directors - Second Monday (next 2 months)- 7:00pm - Party Office, 720 E18th Ave #309, Denver, Co. All members welcome. Public comment 6:45pm and 9:00pm.

• 8/10 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 8/12 - Thurs - Monthly Board Meeting of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County - Every second Thursday at rotating locations - 6:30 p.m. - Cheng's Chinese Garden, 480 West Dahlia, Louisville - Call Ron Bain at 303.443.9179.

• 8/14 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 8/16 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.

• 8/17 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 8/21 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

• 8/24 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Turley's - 2350 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder - Call Ron Bain at 303-443-9179.

• 8/28 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334, e-mail.

November, 1999

• 11/13-14 - S/S - Success 99 - How to run successful campaigns and how to build your local organization. Featuring National Director Steve Dasbach, Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Communications Director Bill Winter. Also Michael Cloud, Barbara Goushaw, and Jim Lark. \$79 per person. Call the Balcom Group at 202-234-3880.

April, 2000

• 4/14-16 - Fri-Sun - State Convention - Election of candidates, delegates, seminars, guest speakers, banquet and parties. Early registration: \$99. Contact: Michele Bethke - 303-690-2907.

Annual Picnic

The Libertarian Community of Jefferson County will host this year's summer Libertarian social event, a picnic, on Friday night, July 23, starting at 5 p.m., at Sara Wilson's apartment complex's gazebo on the pond.

This will be a bring your own stuff affair, but grills will be provided. Here is how you get there: Take I-70 west and exit on 256 (first exit after the Morrison exit). Go south, left, cross the bridge over I-70, and turn right on Genessee Ridge. Go west approximately 0.8 miles and take the first possible right turn onto Genessee Village Road to Pondview Place and turn right. Continue until dead-ending in a parking lot west of the pond. Sara's building is C-14 and the address is inside on the door, lower level, 23520 Pondview Place. Please do NOT park in front of the garages. The activity will be at the gazebo by the pond.

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Use this form to begin or extend your unified (national and state) LP membership. Send it to:
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Renewals: please provide your LPUS Membership ID# (from your LP News mailing label)

Government-mandated notice: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund-raising appeals.

Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> or \$100/month	Life Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> I am joining the LPUS monthly Liberty Pledge program in the amount indicated to the left. I will receive the Liberty Pledge News each month. <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a reminder notice each month, <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card (number below) <input type="checkbox"/> Send me information on automatic checking withdrawal
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Note: All Colorado residents joining the national Libertarian Party (LPUS) automatically receive a dues-paid membership in the Libertarian Party of Colorado. LPUS members must sign the membership pledge below.

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature: _____ Date ____/____/____

What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the initiation of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you do have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical, or religious goals. This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

Do not send your memberships to:

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